

performed".

Page 23 line 2, change "conveying" to --conveyor--;

line 3, change "conveying" to --conveyor--;

line 11, after "painted" insert --body--; change "above-mentioned region" to --surface--;

line 16, after "step" insert --36--;

line 19, before the comma insert --embodiment--;

line 20, after "out" insert --immediately--.

Page 24 lines 5 and 6, change "described above" to --of Fig. 7--;

line 15, change "; before painting is carried out" to --involving--;

line 16, change "ordinarily performed is carried out on the automobile body, and" to --after which--;

line 19, after "automobile" insert --ordinarily--;

line 20, delete "ordinarily performed".

Page 25 line 2, change "coating, the strippable paint" to --is coated, it--;

line 3, change "or" to --and/or--.

Page 26 line 12, after the period add the following paragraph --Although there have been described what are at present considered to be the preferred embodiments of the invention, it will be understood that various modifications and variations may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and essence of the invention. The scope of the invention is indicated by the appended claims.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-13, 17, 18, and 21 without prejudice, and without dedication or abandonment of the subject matter thereof.

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claim 14 line 1, change "A machine" to --Apparatus--;

line 2, after "coating" insert a comma;

lines 2 and 3, delete "such as an automobile";

line 4, change "machine" to -- apparatus--;

line 5, delete "said".

1 19. (amended) [A machine] Apparatus for forming a protective film on a surface
2 of a large-sized product finished with a sprayed coating [such as an automobile] by applying
3 a strippable paint to a surface of said sprayed coating, said [machine] apparatus comprising:

4 a pretreatment [device] means including a washing device for washing away
5 contaminations such as dust, dirty water, and rainwater from said surface of said coating of
6 said product and a dehydrating device;

7 an application booth for applying [said] strippable paint to the product, said booth
being located contiguous with said pretreatment [device] means;

8 a preliminary drying furnace for preliminarily drying the strippable paint applied to
said product; and

9 a non-preliminary drying furnace for non-preliminarily drying said product already
preliminarily dried.

Sub c 20. (amended) A method for forming a protective film on a large paint-finished
product [such as an automobile including a step of applying] using strippable paint, the
method comprising [a step] the steps of: painting the large product so that the product is
paint- finished;

assembling the paint-finished product by mounting an engine and functional parts
thereto; and

8 coating strippable paint on a painted surface of the large paint-finished product
[after a step of painting the large paint-finished product].

A12 22. (amended) A method for forming a protective film on a large paint-finished
product [such as an automobile] according to claim 20 [or claim 21], wherein [a] said
assembling step [after the painting step is an assembly step of mounting an engine and
functional parts and the like and a step after this assembly step is a] occurs prior to said
5 strippable paint coating step.

Cont'd

1 23. (amended) A method for forming a protective film on a large paint-finished
2 product [such as an automobile] according to claim 22, [wherein] further including a step of
3 fitting an anti-scratch cover [fitting and removal steps are provided] to the paint-finished
4 product before [and after] the assembly step, and removing said anti-scratch cover from the
5 product after the assembly step.

1 24. (amended) A method for forming a protective film on a large paint-finished
2 product [such as an automobile] according to claim 22, [wherein] further including a step of
3 completed product inspection after the strippable paint coating step [following the assembly
4 step is a completed product inspection step].

1 25. (Amended) A method for forming a protective film on a large paint-finished
2 product [such as an automobile] according to claim 20 [or claim 21], wherein [a step after
3 the painting step is a] said strippable paint coating step is after the painting step, and said
4 [an assembly] assembling step [of mounting an engine and functional parts and the like] is
disposed after the strippable paint coating step.

1 26. (amended) A method for forming a protective film on a ~~large~~ paint-finished
2 ~~automobile~~ ²⁶ product [such as an automobile] according to claim ~~25~~, [wherein] further including a step of
3 finished product inspection following the assembly step [is a finished product inspection
step].

Please add the following new claims.

1 27. (new) A method for forming a protective film on a large paint-finished product
2 *SJb C²⁷* according to claim 20, further including the steps of:

3 preliminarily drying said coated strippable paint; and
4 non-preliminarily drying the preliminarily dried, strippable paint.

1 28. (new) A method for forming a protective film on a large paint-finished product
2 according to claim 27, wherein said assembly step is prior to said strippable paint coating
3 step.

1 29. (new) A method for forming a protective film on a large paint-finished product
2 according to claim 27, further including an assembly step of mounting an engine and